

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 SCCT-02 SY-04 FBO-08 A-01

M-02 USSS-00 IO-14 DRC-01 /168 W

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R 190721Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3912

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, AS

SUBJ: GREEK-TURKISH DEVELOPMENTS AS REFLECTED IN AUSTRALIA

REF: A) MELBOURNE 976 B) SYDNEY 1738

1. IN ADDITION TO DEMONSTRATIONS BY GREEK AND GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY AT OUR CONSULATES GENERAL IN MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY AUG 15 (REFTELS) CROWD OF ABOUT 300 GREEK DEMONSTRATORS PARADED TO EMBASSY AUG 18 AND DENOUNCED U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. CROWD WAS NOISY AND WELL-ORGANIZED BUT GENERALLY PEACEFUL. NUMEROUS CHILDREN AND BLACK-CLAD GRANDMOTHERS ACCOMPANIED DEMONSTRATORS, INDICATING THAT PARTICIPANTS DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY VIOLENCE. POLICE PROTECTION FULLY ADEQUATE.

2. PETITION ADDRESSED TO AMBASSADOR BY CANBERRA GREEK COMMUNITY CONTAINS USUAL DENUNCIATIONS OF TURKEY, AS WELL AS COMMENT, "IF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WANTED TO PREVENT TURKEY FROM INVADING CYPRUS, IF AMERICA WANTED TO PREVENT THE ATROCITIES AND DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY THE UNCIVILIZED HORDES OF THE TURKISH ARMY, SURELY THEY COULD DO SO WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTY." ONLY OTHER POINT OF INTEREST IN PETITION IS STATEMENT, "THERE IS NO DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND THAT THE COUP LAUNCHED AGAINST ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS ON 15

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JULY 1974 WAS NOT INSTIGATED BY THE 650 GREEK OFFICERS

STATIONED IN CYPRUS...."

3. TURKISH EMBASSY IN CANBERRA PROVIDED WITH EXTRA GUARDS
PAST FEW DAYS, BUT NO DEMONSTRATIONS BY GREEKS TO DATE.

4. COMMENT: CURIOUS ASPECT OF DEMONSTRATIONS HAS BEEN CONCENTRATION
BY GREEKS ON AMERICAN EMBASSY AND CONSULATES. AS FAR AS WE ARE
AWARE, ONLY TURKISH OFFICE TO HAVE DEMONSTRATION WAS CONSULATE
GENERAL IN SYDNEY, THOUGH THERE IS ALSO TURKISH CONGEN IN
MELBOURNE. PERHAPS GREEKS GENERALLY REALIZE THAT GOVERNMENT OF
TURKEY UNLIKELY TO BE MOVED BY DEMONSTRATIONS ABROAD, WHEREAS
THEY HOPE TO MAKE SOME IMPACT ON U.S. POLICY BY DEMONSTRATING
BEFORE U.S. ESTABLISHMENTS.

5. ANOTHER SURPRISING ASPECT OF AUSTRALIAN PRESS COMMENT HAS
BEEN VIEW EXPRESSED BY INFLUENTIAL COLUMNIST CREIGHTON BURNS IN
MELBOURNE AGE RECENTLY, IN WHICH HE CRITICIZED U.S. FOR NOT RPT
NOT MAKING MORE DETERMINED EFFORT TO HALT FIGHTING IN CYPRUS.
HE CONTRASTED WHAT HE CONSIDERED RELATIVE U.S. INACTION ON
CYPRUS WITH SECRETARY'S DETERMINED AND PERSEVERING ACTIONS IN
MIDDLE EAST OVER PAST FEW MONTHS. AS DEPT AWARE, U.S. HAS OFTEN
BEEN CRITICIZED IN PAST YEARS FOR SEEKING TO PLAY ROLE OF
"GENDARME OF THE UNIVERSE". OBVIOUSLY, WE ARE AS MUCH LIABLE
TO CRITICISM WHEN WE FAIL TO PLAY SUCH A ROLE.
HARROP

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